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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **DEVELOGEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT FUR ENTWICKLUNGSBIOLOGISCHE FORSCHUNG [DE/DE]; Rudolf-Wissell-Str. 28, 37079 Göttingen (DE).**
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **ONICHTCHOUK, Daria [RU/DE]; Auf der Lieth 10, 37077 Göttingen (DE). BURK, Ulrike [DE/DE]; Kurze Geismarstr. 27, 37073 Göttingen (DE).**
- (74) Agents: **WEICKMANN & WEICKMANN et al.; Postfach 860 820, 81635 München (DE).**
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(54) Title: **USE OF PLEITROPHIN FOR PREVENTING AND TREATING PANCREATIC DISEASES AND/OR OBESITY AND/OR METABOLIC SYNDROME**

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses the protein pleitrophin secreted by the developing pancreas, and polynucleotides, which identify and encode this protein. The invention also relates to the use of these sequences in the diagnosis, study, prevention, and treatment of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome.